Wheat Procurement

1849. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wheat procurement for the marketing season 1998-99 has reached 9.3 million tonnes;

(b) if so, the details of the region-wise procurement and the extent to which these are higher as compared to previous years; and

(c) whether FCI has adequate storage facilities for the procured wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) 12.10 million tonnes of wheat has been procured upto 8.6.98 in the current Rabi Marketing Season 1998-99, as against 8.63 million tonnes procured during the corresponding period of last season.

A statement showing State-wise procurement of wheat during 1997-98 and 1998-99 Marketing Season is attached *(See below)*.

(c) The storage capacity available with FCI is sufficient at macro level to store the procured wheat.

Statement

State-wise procurement of wheat during Rabi Marketing Season 1997-98 and 1998-99

(in lakh tonnes)

State	1997-98	1998-99 (As on 8.6.98)
Bihar	Neg.	Neg.
Gujarat	—	0.01
Haryana	22.90	31.13
Himachal Pradesh	—	Neg.
Madhya Pradesh	1.07	4.54
Punjab	59.61	61.17
Rajasthan	3.20	6.39
Uttar Pradesh	6.18	17.72
Chandigarh	0.02	—
Delhi	Neg.	0.08
TOTAL	92.98	121.04

NEG.: Below 500 tonnes.

Implementation of the wheat import deal signed by previous Government

1850. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat import deal signed by previous Government with Australia has been implemented by present Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to take some steps for ensuring that exotic weeds are not found in the imported wheat; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government, after reviewing the status of wheat production during 1997-98 rabi season, decided to import upto 20 lakh tonnes of wheat during 1998-99. Accordingly, as per the authorisation given by the Government, the STC entered into contracts with the Australian Wheat Board (AWB) on 26.2.98 and 27.2.98 for import of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia on FOB basis at US $142.50 per tonne. The entire contracted quantity is being imported. As per the schedule drawn up, 10.5 lakh tonnes of wheat will come in by June/July, 1998, and the remaining 4.5 lakh tonnes will be shipped from Australia after the monsoons.

(c) and (d) As advised by the Ministry of Agriculture, a list of identified exotic weeds was communicated by the STC to the exporting agency, i.e., Australian Wheat Board with request to them to ensure that the consignments are kept free of these weeds to the extent possible. However, the Plant Quarantine Authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture have intercepted some exotic weed seeds in the consignments of wheat. Since the presence of exotic weed seeds cannot be totally ruled out, in order to ensure that

the exotic weed seeds do not escape and get mixed up with our own produce, the distribution of imported wheat is being restricted to non-wheat growing areas.

Chief Ministers' meeting on Ration Quota

1851. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of Chief Ministers was held in September, 1987 for increase of ration quota for poor sections of society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. A conference of Chief Ministers was held on 30 September, 1997 to review the implementation of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The issue of increase of ration quota for families Below Poverty Line (BPL) was discussed as one of the items in the agenda.

(b) In the conference, a consensus emerged broadly that while these allocation for the BPL families may be increased, there should be no reduction in the allocation for the Above Poverty Line (APL) families. By and large, the view was also to limit the consumer subsidy on foodgrains distributed under PDS.

(c) It has been decided to maintain status quo for the present in view of the constraints of Stocks of foodgrains as well as the high level of subsidy involved.

FCI out of Foodgrains Trade in Punjab

1852. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
DR. RANBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Punjab has proposed to keep FCI out of foodgrains trade due to very slow paddy procurement by it in this season;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): (a) No such proposal has been received from Punjab Government. Foodgrains are procured by the FCI and State procuring agencies jointly under price support scheme for Central Pool at Minimum Support Prices fixed by the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

दालों का आयात

1853. **चौधरी हरमोहन सिंह यादव:**
श्री ईश दत्त यादव:

क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश में दालों का आयात किया जाता है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों में प्रतिवर्ष कितनी मात्रा में दालों का आयात किया गया और उस पर कितनी राशि खर्च की गई; और

(ग) दालों का आयात कम करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये गए है?

खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामलों के मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सत्यपाल सिंह यादव): (क) जी, हां।